1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 LOUIS WOLKENSTEIN, Case No.: 5 Plaintiff, **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** ٧. 6 7 SYNCHRONY BANK f/k/a GE CAPITAL RETAIL BANK, 8 Defendant. 9 10 COMPLAINT 11 LOUIS WOLKENSTEIN ("Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, 12 KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., alleges the following against SYNCHRONY 13 14 BANK f/k/a GE CAPITAL RETAIL BANK ("DEFENDANT"): 15 INTRODUCTION 16 17 1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Telephone Consumer Protection 18 Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. §227. 19 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 20 2. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 28 U.S.C. § 1331. See Mims v. 21 22 Arrow Fin. Services, LLC, 132 S. Ct. 740, 747, 181 L. Ed. 2d 881 (2012). 23 3. Defendant regularly conducts business in the Commonwealth of 24 Pennsylvania, thus, personal jurisdiction is established. 25 -1-

4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

## **PARTIES**

- 5. Plaintiff is a "person" as that term is defined by 47 U.S.C. §153(39).
- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Scranton, PA.
- 7. Defendant is a "person" as that term is defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).
- 8. Defendant is a corporation with its principal place of business located at 950 Forrer Boulevard, Kettering, OH 45420.
- 9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 10. Plaintiff has a cellular telephone number that he has had for at least one year.
  - 11. Plaintiff has only used this phone as a cellular telephone.
- 12. Beginning in or around mid-July 2015 and continuing thereafter,
  Defendant placed repeated telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.
- 13. Defendant used an automatic telephone dialing system, automated message and/or prerecorded voice when contacting Plaintiff.

- 14. Plaintiff knew that Defendant was using an automated telephone dialing system because there would be an automated message that would play before he would be transferred to a live caller.
- 15. Defendant's telephone calls were not made for "emergency purposes;" rather, Defendant was attempting to collect account balances.
- 16. Desiring to stop the repeated telephone calls, Plaintiff told Defendant to stop calling when the calls first began in or around mid-July 2015.
- 17. Defendant heard and acknowledged Plaintiff's instructions to stop calling him.
- 18. Once Defendant was aware that its calls were unwanted and to stop, there was no lawful purpose to continue making further calls, nor was there any good faith reason to place calls.
- 19. However, Defendant failed to update its records to restrict telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone despite Plaintiff's repeated requests to stop and continued to call Plaintiff through September 2015.
- 20. It was frustrating and annoying for Plaintiff to receive such continuous and repeated telephone calls from Defendant on his cellular telephone and as such Plaintiff took measures to block Defendant's calls.
- 21. Upon information and belief, Defendant conducts business in a manner which violates the TCPA.

## COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

- 22. Plaintiff incorporates the forgoing paragraphs as though the same were set forth at length herein.
- 23. Defendant initiated multiple automated telephone calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number.
- 24. Defendant's initiated these automated calls to Plaintiff using an automatic telephone dialing system.
- 25. Defendant repeatedly placed non-emergency calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
- 26. Under § 227(b)(3)(A) of the TCPA, a person or entity may bring a private cause of action in an appropriate court based on a violation of the TCPA or the regulations prescribed under the TCPA to enjoin such violation.
- 27. Under § 227(b)(3)(B) of the TCPA, a person or entity may bring a private cause of action in an appropriate court "to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation whichever is greater."
- 28. Based upon the conduct of Defendant, Plaintiff avers that the enhancement of damages provided for by the TCPA allowing for Plaintiff to recover up to \$1,500 per call/violation be applied to calls placed.

- 29. Defendant's conduct violated § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the TCPA by placing repeated calls using an automatic telephone dialing system to Plaintiff's cellular telephone.
- 30. Defendant's calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone after he revoked consent were not made with Plaintiff's prior express consent.
- 31. Defendant's acts as described above were done with malicious, intentional, willful, reckless, wanton and negligent disregard for Plaintiff's rights under the law and with the purpose of harassing Plaintiff.
- 32. The acts and/or omissions of Defendant were done unfairly, unlawfully, intentionally, deceptively and fraudulently and absent bona fide error, lawful right, legal defense, legal justification or legal excuse.
- 33. As a result of the above violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff has suffered the losses and damages as set forth above entitling Plaintiff to an award of statutory, actual and trebles damages.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, LOUIS WOLKENSTEIN, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

a. All actual damages suffered pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A);

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